



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Professor Ross calls "social influence," by almost imperceptible changes develops into that conscious social ascendancy, which he has so well named "Social Control."

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS.

*Columbia University.*

---

*Poverty, a Study of Town Life.* By B. SEEBOHM ROWNTREE. Pp. 437. Price, \$3.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1901.

This work presents in a clear and forcible manner the condition of the poorer classes of York, England. Mr. Rowntree was impelled to the investigation, which was made in 1901, by the desire to see whether the conclusions of Mr. Charles Booth were applicable to a small city. Mr. Rowntree chose, therefore, his native city, York, whose population is about 77,800. In his research he had the advantage of Mr. Booth's advice. The result is one of the best studies yet made, though it does not pretend to cover the same ground as the great work by Mr. Booth.

York is stated to be an average city as regards general conditions. The industries are not highly specialized, and nearly every young man and woman can find employment. In the investigation it was sought to learn the housing conditions, earnings and occupation of every wage-earning family, not including, however, domestic servants living away from home, nor the servant-keeping class. This excludes a large part of the better class of wage-earners. The facts were ascertained regarding 11,560 families, comprising 46,754 people. There are no large tenements in the city and nearly every family has a separate cottage.

The picture Mr. Rowntree draws is not a bright one. Abject poverty, with seemingly no rays of hope, stands out in bold relief. For the sake of England and her commercial position, as well as for the individuals, the author rightly considers this a vital problem. After a careful consideration of the prices of necessities, it is said that the minimum expenditure for a family of four—father, mother and two children—is 18s. 10d. a week. This allows nothing for extras and assumes that every penny of the family income is carefully and wisely used. How often is this the case? 1,465 families, embracing 7,230 persons, were found living below this standard in what the author, rather infelicitously, calls "primary" poverty. This is equal to 15.46 per cent of the wage-earning class, or 9.91 per cent of the total population of the city. By "secondary" poverty is indicated those whose "total earnings would be sufficient for the maintenance of merely physical efficiency, were it not that some portion of it is absorbed by other expenditure, either useful or wasteful." The "other expenditure" is

usually for drink, gambling, etc. In this class are placed 13,072 persons, 17.93 per cent of the population. Combining these classes, some 28 per cent of the population are in such a condition of poverty that mere physical efficiency cannot be maintained.

A gloomy prospect is before the child of the average laborer. During childhood, unless his father is a skilled workman, he is probably in poverty from which he and his brothers and sisters do not escape till they come to self-support. Then he marries and with the advent of children sinks again into poverty, until they become independent. After they marry he again crosses the line of poverty. In this periodical fluctuation Mr. Rowntree sees the normal life of the English laborer. To account for the early marriages of unskilled laborers he cites (1) unattractive homes, (2) monotony of life, and in condemning the custom, seemingly at least, ignores the fact that the unskilled man comes early to greatest efficiency and economically is justified, if ever in an early marriage.

The chief aim of the book is to portray facts, not to seek causes nor suggest remedies. The attempt, however, to get at the causes of this poverty is not entirely satisfactory. To state as the cause of 51.96 per cent of the "primary" poverty, the low wages received by those in regular employment, only restates half of the problem. To say that another 22.16 per cent is because of large families—the normal family being allowed four children—would justify one in saying that all children were a cause of poverty, as most of the parents would be above the line were it not for their presence. The author justifies this criticism when he states "that the 7,230 persons shown by this inquiry to be in a state of primary poverty, represent merely that section who happened to be in one of these poverty periods at the time the inquiry was made."

The chapter on "Housing" is well illustrated. While the rent is but 9 per cent of the income of the best-situated laborers, it amounts to 29 per cent for the poorest.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the book is that devoted to "Family Budgets." Mr. Rowntree had great success in getting numbers of families to keep itemized accounts of income and expenses. They show (1) the kinds of food they bought; (2) the prices paid; (3) the quantities of each individual purchase; (4) the menu of meals provided. These budgets are given *in extenso* and in an appendix they are carefully analyzed to show the nutritive value of the food. As a result it is found that a "large proportion of the industrial population are seriously underfed." Further investigations of this subject are to be desired.

The supplementary chapters containing studies of "Public Houses," "Education," "Coöperation," "Poor Relief," etc., show the need of

some reforms. Mr. Rowntree is not pessimistic, in spite of the misery he finds, and believes that careful study of conditions will disclose remedies.

The book contains two maps of York in colors, showing residence districts of the various classes. Many pages of investigators' notebooks are shown.

CARL KELSEY.

*Philadelphia.*

---

*Public Health and Housing.* By JOHN F. J. SYKES, M. D. Pp. viii, 216. Price, 5 s. London: P. S. King & Son, 1901.

The growth of our large cities and the pressure of population have wrought no greater changes than in the alteration they have effected in the mode of living. The exclusiveness of the house of former days is giving way to a closer association of habitations. Flats, apartment hotels, and residential clubs are becoming more numerous among the well-to-do, while the poorer and working classes are being crowded into tenements, "Mills hotels," and lodging houses. The importance of the housing problem in London is evident from the fact that two and a third millions out of a population of four and a quarter millions, or over one-half of the community at the census of 1891, lived in small dwellings of from one to four rooms. The public health is very vitally affected, not only by the kind of dwellings in which these people are housed, but by the way in which they are used. Dr. Sykes has accordingly divided his book on this subject into three parts, which deal respectively with (1) the effects upon health of certain conditions of habitation, (2) construction and misconstruction, and (3) usage and misusage.

Under the first head Dr. Sykes shows the close connection between density of population and the death-rate, especially for children and those suffering from pulmonary troubles. The effects upon health of certain defective dwellings, such as rear tenements, stable, basement, and dilapidated dwellings are statistically determined, as well as other defects, such as insufficient water, air or light, dampness and coldness. While these factors without doubt directly cause a high mortality it must not be overlooked that the very part of the population which is forced into these insufficient and insanitary dwellings offers least resistance to disease from other causes—overwork, long hours, insufficient or badly cooked food, hereditary weakness, and character of occupation.

The easiest, as well as the most effective, remedy for the housing problem would seem to be the construction of new dwellings on approved sanitary principles. Dr. Sykes therefore devotes the second part of his book to a discussion of the best methods of arrangement.